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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Scinax canastrensis (Cardoso and Haddad, 1982) (Anura: Hylidae): New record in the state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil

Mário Ribeiro Moura [1,2*] and Heliomar Cazelli [1]

1 Universidade Federal de Viçosa, Departamento de Biologia Animal, Museu de Zoologia João Moojen. Avenida P. H. Rolfs s/n. CEP 36570-000. Viçosa, MG, Brazil.
2 Ecos Biota Consultoria Ambiental. Rua Dr. Milton Bandeira 95/401. CEP 36570-000. Viçosa, MG, Brazil.
* Corresponding author. E-mail: *mariormoura@gmail.com*

ABSTRACT: We report a new record of *Scinax canastrensis* from central region of Minas Gerais state. This record represents a range extension of *ca.* 175 km northeast from the type-locality, at Parque Nacional Serra da Canastra, and the third register of this species in Minas Gerais.

The species of the *Scinax catharinae* group are typical of forested areas, and those that inhabit Cerrado areas (*e.g. S. canastrensis*, *S. centralis*, *S. longilineus*, *S. machadoi* and *S. skaios*,) occupy similar habitats (gallery forests) as the Atlantic forest species (Faivovich *et al.* 2002; Bastos 2007; Pombal *et al.* 2010). *Scinax canastrensis* (Cardoso and Haddad, 1982) is a small hylid frog belonging to *S. catharinae* group (Faivovich *et al.* 2005), endemic of Cerrado domain. This species is known from three localities in central Brazil: the type-locality at Parque Nacional da Serra da Canastra (20°15' S, 46°30' W), municipality of São Roque de Minas (Cardoso and Andrade 1982; Haddad *et al.* 1988) and the municipality of Perdizes (19° S, 47°10' W), both in Minas Gerais state (Oliveira-Filho and Kokubum 2003), and from Parque Estadual das Furnas do Bom Jesus (20°13' S, 47°26' W), municipality of Pedregulho, São Paulo state (Araujo *et al.* 2007).

On 23 April 2011, three specimens of *Scinax canastrensis* were observed calling inside bushes and grasses at the bank of a permanent stream that flows into a permanent pond (19°36' S, 44°57' W, 673 m elevation) (Figure 1). This environment is located at the left bank of Pará River, a tributary of São Francisco River in municipality of Pitangui, state of Minas Gerais. One adult male of *S. canastrensis* (Figure 2) was captured (collection permits given by Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis [IBAMA] #081/2011) and subsequently housed at the herpetological collection of Museu de Zoologia João Moojen, Universidade Federal de Viçosa, municipality of Viçosa, Minas Gerais (MZUFV), under the label MZUFV 11276.

There are several areas in Minas Gerais state for which even basic information, such as a list of species of amphibians are scarce. As a result, approximately 35% of the species recorded in this state were considered Data Deficient in the last assessment of conservation status (Nascimento *et al.* 2009), including *Scinax canastrensis* (IUCN 2011; Biodiversitas 2007). The record of *Scinax canastrensis* from the municipality of Pitangui represents a range extension of *ca.* 175 km northeastern from the type-locality, at Parque Nacional Serra da Canastra, municipality of São Roque de Minas (Figure 3). Besides the population known from type-locality, only the new population reported here is known from the São Francisco River basin. Is worth noting that three of the four localities where *S. canastrensis* was registered are located in areas classified as priority for conservation of the herpetofauna in Minas Gerais (Drummond *et al.* 2005), including the new record from the municipality Pitangui, located in the Upper São Francisco River region.

Most species of *Scinax* gr. *catharinae* depend on streams inside forests to reproduce. Recently, proposals for changes in Brazilian environmental laws has been the subject of constant debates that question the implications of reduction or extinction of certain protected areas to biodiversity conservation (Metzger *et al.* 2010). One of

FIGURE 1. Environment where *Scinax canastrensis* specimens were observed. A permanent stream that flows into a permanent pond, at the left bank of Pará River, municipality of Pitangui, state of Minas Gerais. Photo by M.R. Moura.

the proposed changes is the reduction of the mandatory protected area of riparian vegetation. The current legislation states that streams with less than 5 m wide must have preserved riparian vegetation with at least 30 m wide from their margins, whereas the new proposal states that in this case the mandatory preserved riparian vegetation can be reduced to 15 m wide. However, most anuran species associated with streams occurs in narrow watercourses (< 5 m; Toledo *et al.* 2010). Given the ecological fidelity of the *Scinax* species to the Cerrado gallery forests (Araújo *et al.* 2007; Bastos 2007; Pombal *et al.* 2010), the conservation of riparian vegetation is imperative for the survival and maintenance of their populations, and the proposed changes in Brazilian environmental legislation can severely affect amphibian conservation in the country.

Figure 2. *Scinax canastrensis* (MZUFV 11276; male; 27.7 mm snout-vent length) from the municipality of Pitangui, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Photo by M.R. Moura.

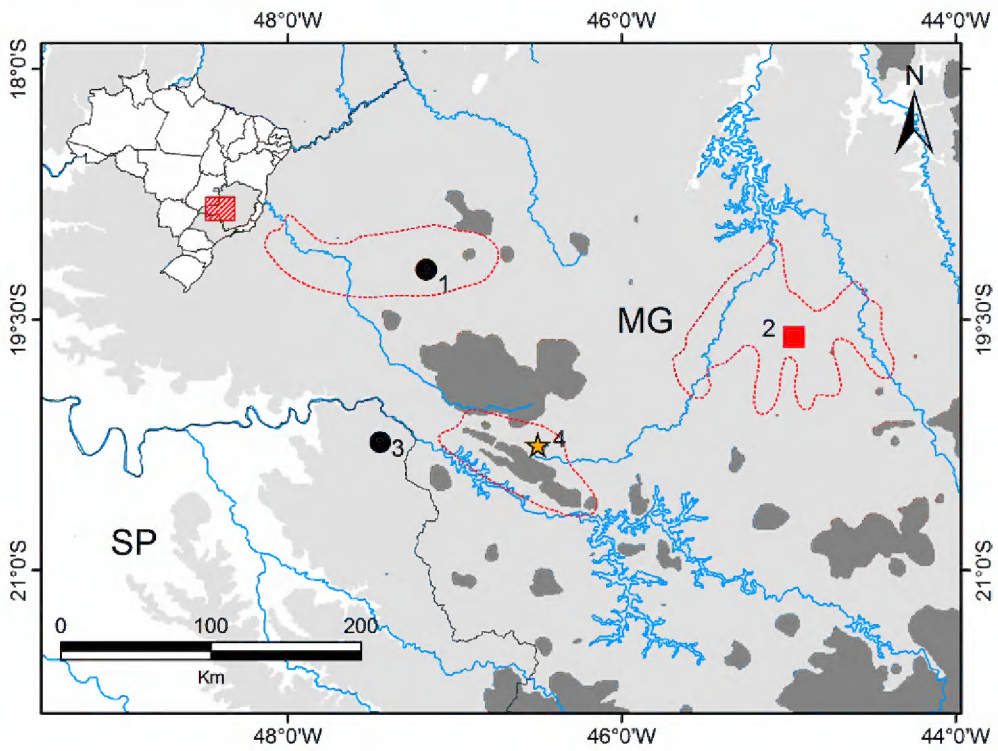

Figure 3. Geographic distribution of *Scinax canastrensis* in Brazil. MG, state of Minas Gerais; SP, state of São Paulo. Symbols: Circles = literature records; Square = New record; Star = Type-locality. Municipalities: 1, Perdizes (Estação de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento de Galheiro); 2, Pitangui; 3, Pedregulho (Parque Estadual das Furnas do Bom Jesus); 4, São Roque de Minas (Parque Nacional da Serra da Canastra).
☐ Elevations between sea level to 600 m; ▢ Elevations between 600 to 1000 m; ■ Elevations above 1000 m. Dashed red line: boundaries of the priority areas for the conservation of herpetofauna. Map by M.R. Moura.

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